

The 27,861-acre Columbia National Wildlife Refuge in central Washington has received 385 additional acres. This will round out the acquisition of an agricultural area necessary in managing the refuge for the many species of waterfowl using the Pacific Flyway. The refuge was established in 1944.

At the same meeting the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission discussed numerous matters of procedures and procedural changes which might be advisable to speed up the emergency waterfowl acquisition program authorized last year by Congress. Under this program, Congress authorized a loan of \$105 million to the Department of the Interior for acquiring waterfowl lands. The loan covers a seven-year period and will be repaid, beginning in 1969, from receipts from the sale of duck stamps.

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